

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-26 are pending.

Claims 1-22 are allowed.

Dependent claim 24 is objected to for being allowable if amended into independent form.

Claims 23, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii (US Patent No. 6,148,243) in view of Smith (US Patent No. 5,847,922).

Claims 23 and 26 are amended.

Thus, claims 23-26 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment. The foregoing rejection is hereby traversed.

REJECTION

The rejected independent claims are 23 and 26. Independent claims 23 and 26 are amended for clarity.

Ishii discloses two systems each having an audio signal output unit that are docked together. In particular, the Examiner in page 2 of the Office Action relies on Ishii's FIG. 3 and the network circuit 311. In particular, Ishii in column 6, line 31 to column 7, line 21, and FIG. 3, discloses that when the personal computer 301 and the docking station 319 are connected, the audio signals output from the CD-ROM drive 304 and amplified by the audio circuit 313 are supplied to the network circuit 311. Therefore, the network circuit 311 provides middle/high frequency audio signals to the built-in speakers 306, whereas the low frequency audio signals drive the station speakers 320. When the personal computer 301 and the docking station 319 are not connected, the audio signals output from the CD-ROM 304 and amplified by the audio circuit 313 are not supplied to the network circuit 311, but directly supplied to drive the built-in speakers 306. Therefore, the Examiner is asserting that Ishii's network circuit 311 of FIG. 3 is similar to the claimed present invention's "***selectable filters in the main and the auxiliary audio systems.***"

However, Ishii fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, "***selectable filters in the main and the auxiliary audio systems*** and filtering generated audio signals within respective frequency bands ***to be supplied to the main and auxiliary audio systems***" and "a switch ***controlling the audio signals*** to pass through the ***selected filters to supply the-selected filtered audio signals*** to the main audio system and/or to the auxiliary audio system, ***depending upon whether the auxiliary audio system is communicating with the main audio system***" (claim 23), because Ishii clearly discloses that when the computer 301 and the docking station 319 are not connected, the audio signals amplified by the audio circuit 313 are not supplied to the network circuit 311, but directly drive the built-in speakers 306 (Ishii, column 6, lines 31-58). In other words, Ishii, as shown in FIG. 3, ***does not filter audio signals to the built-in speakers 306***, when the computer 301 and the docking station 319 are separated. Ishii fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, "***controlling the audio signals*** to pass through the ***selected filters*** [i.e., ***selectable filters in the main and the auxiliary audio systems***] to supply ~~the-selected filtered audio signals~~ to the main audio system and/or to the auxiliary audio system, ***depending upon whether the auxiliary audio system is communicating with the main audio system***" (e.g., amended independent claim 23).

Further, Ishii fails to disclose or suggest an audio signal filter in the docking station 319, so the Examiner in page 3 of the Office Action relies on Smith. Smith discloses a docking station 10 with speakers. Smith, FIG. 6, discloses equalizing circuits 94, 98 in the docking station 10, ***which differ from the claimed present invention's audio signal filters***, such as the BPF 26, HPF 28 and the LPF 42 (FIG. 2 of the present Application). Therefore, Smith fails to disclose or suggest an audio signal filter in the docking station 10. Further, Smith is directed to providing a ported and a non-porting speaker structure as part of an asymmetric speaker system, which can accommodate low, mid and high frequencies, to provide desirable attributes of improved sound quality and reduced fabrication costs (column 2, lines 21-30; column 1, line 43 to column 2, line 30). Therefore, there is no motivation or suggestion to combine Smith with Ishii, because Ishii relates to controlling transfer of audio signals between the personal computer 301 and the docking station 319, such that there would be no need to incorporate Smith's asymmetrical speaker system covering all frequencies of low, mid and high in Ishii's docking station 319.

The claimed present invention as recited in independent claims 23 and 26 is patentably distinguishing over Ishii and Smith, because Ishii fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's "***selectable filters in the main and the auxiliary audio systems*** and filtering generated audio signals within respective frequency bands to be supplied to the main and auxiliary audio systems" and "a switch ***controlling the audio signals*** to pass through the ***selectable filters to supply the-selected filtered audio signals*** to the ***main audio system and/or to the auxiliary audio system***, depending upon whether the auxiliary audio system is communicating with the main audio system" (e.g., amended independent claim 23). In other words, Ishii, as shown in FIG. 3, ***does not filter audio signals to the built-in speakers 306***, when the computer 301 and the docking station 319 are separated. See, the third-fourth embodiments in Ishii, columns 5-7 and FIGS. 1-3, 7, 9-12.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example in FIGS. 2-3 and paragraphs 25, 26, 31-33, 37, 40, and 43 of the present Application.

Further, in contrast to Ishii and Smith, the claimed present invention as recited in independent claim 26 provides,

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An audio signal frequency band switch in a computer having a main audio system and an auxiliary audio system, the switch comprising:

a sensor sensing whether the auxiliary audio system is communicating with the main audio system;

a plurality of filters in the main and the auxiliary audio systems and filtering generated audio signals within respective frequency bands to be supplied to the main and auxiliary audio systems; and

a controller controlling input to the filters, in response to the sensor and ***input filter selection to control sound output according to the filter selection*** at the main and auxiliary audio systems.

In other words, Ishii and Smith fail to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's, "input filter selection."

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 12/17/2004

By: 
Mehdi D. Sheikerz
Registration No. 41,307

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501